

the aisle in forging a conference agreement which will provide funding for important energy and defense related programs in this year's Energy and Water Appropriations bill. As we will not likely complete all of the individual 13 appropriations bills, I compliment the managers for completing their respective conference bills and reports.

I did not object to the conference report's passage yesterday by unanimous consent. However, I do take exception to the continuing practice of overloading an important spending bill such as this one with wasteful and unnecessary spending for unrequested, unauthorized or member-interest projects. I examined the Senate bill and report during our consideration earlier this year and counted more than \$920 million in earmarks. I am disappointed that the conferees chose not to cut back on this wasteful spending, but rather took the opportunity to indulge and attach even more erroneous earmarks for projects which were not considered by either legislative body.

Mr. President, I will not dwell on the details, for I have compiled an extensive list of objectionable provisions which clearly reflects an outrageous spending binge by our federal government. This conference report is shamefully overridden with \$1.6 billion of pork-barrel spending. Many members will come out of this process as winners with spending for their own special interest projects. Unfortunately, the losers are the American taxpayers who will have to shoulder this fiscal burden.

The complete list of objectionable provisions is available through my office.●

TRIBUTE TO FLO BRUMER ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, on November 21, 1998, Mrs. Florence Brumer of Utica, New York, will celebrate her 90th birthday. She is fortunate to reach this milestone not only in good health and high spirits, but in the company of her husband of 64 years, Lou, and their two children and four grandchildren, all of their spouses, and one great-grandchild.

A lifelong educator, Mrs. Brumer has touched many lives and been an inspiration to those around her. She received a bachelor's degree in education from New York University and a master's degree from the Teacher's College at Columbia University. She went on to spend over forty years as a teacher and curriculum supervisor in the New York City school system. When she retired in 1966, she moved upstate to Utica and became the city's most ardent promoter. An article in the local newspaper several years ago highlighted the Brumers' rave reviews of Utica's social and cultural life, which coming from Manhattan natives were particularly strong endorsements.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Flo Brumer's life is her vigor and enthusiasm for a wide variety of activities. A cancer survivor, she was a pioneer in the crusade against smoking back in the days when there was no such thing as a "smoke-free environment." Well into retirement, she donned sneakers and began the sport later known as "mall-walking." She has a great passion for political discussions, instilled in her, perhaps, at the table of her uncle, William I. Sirovich, who served as a member of the U.S. Congress (D-NY) from 1927-39. And as a bridge fanatic, she continues to play and win regularly while trying to recruit new partners.

Reaching one's 90th birthday is a notable occasion in and of itself, but to do so with such vitality and cheer is a truly great accomplishment. I offer her my heartiest congratulations and best wishes and close with a particularly apt Irish blessing:

May joy and peace surround you
Contentment latch your door,
And happiness be with you now,
And bless you evermore.●

TRIBUTE TO THE GATESWORTH ON ITS TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Gatesworth at One McKnight Place in St. Louis, Missouri on its ten-year anniversary. The Gatesworth is an extremely elegant adult living community. In its years of existence The Gatesworth has received much praise for its commitment to active independent living.

During its short existence, The Gatesworth has received numerous awards including, National Home Builders "Best Lowrise," Contemporary Longterm Care "Best Interior Design," and Professional Builder Magazine "Feature Performance Award," just to name a few. Among the outstanding features of The Gatesworth are the four story atrium, two dining rooms, 102 seat theater, fitness center with indoor pool, on-site bank, beauty shop, gift shop, convenience store, library and billiard room.

I commend The Gatesworth staff for their spirit and energy throughout their ten-years of existence and hope The Gatesworth continues to prosper for several more decades.●

MOUNT ST. HELENS RECOVERY OPERATION ON THE COWLITZ RIVER

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate passed the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Conference Report. I seek clarification from the Chairman on two matters related to flood control measures along the Cowlitz River in Washington state necessary to mitigate impacts from the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. That eruption reduced the Cowlitz River channel capacity to one tenth of its pre-eruption level. In 1985, Congress en-

acted Public Law 99-88 which authorized and directed the Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) to construct, operate, and maintain a sediment retention structure with such design features and associated downstream actions as are necessary. An October 1985 Decision Document identified specific levels of protection for Cowlitz River communities, consistent with risk assessments and NED criteria.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, if I may join my colleague from Washington state, this Decision Document became the basis for the local cost-sharing agreement signed by federal, state, and local officials in April, 1986. This agreement was recognized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. It has come to attention of Senator MURRAY and I that the Corps is uncertain whether the levels of protection in the Decision Document are discretionary or required.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it is our understanding that both Congressional intent and the recollections of those most intimately involved in crafting the cost-share agreement support the interpretation that these levels of protection are required. Does the distinguished Chairman concur?

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the Senators from Washington are correct. I am informed that the Mount St. Helens Decision Document does indeed set for the levels of protection for communities along the Cowlitz River. The Decision Document was the basis for the cost-sharing agreement with state and local entities and commits the Corps to maintain these specified levels of protection.

Mrs. MURRAY. I thank the Chairman. In addition, heavy rains and flooding during February 1996 brought to light some serious problems and omissions in the Mount St. Helens recovery effort that require immediate attention.

Mr. GORTON. My colleague from Washington is correct. In several cases work by the Corps or its contractors appears to have created new problems. In the case of the Coweeman River, over one mile of volcanic sediment that backed up in this tributary. Initially ignored, this sediment now poses a serious threat to the community of Kelso. The Corps is currently scheduled to initiate a two-year study of these hazards and levels of protection in fiscal year 2000. It makes sense to all concerned that these matters be addressed as soon as possible.

Mrs. MURRAY. Does the distinguished chairman agree that the Corps should use available funds in fiscal year 1999 to address this important issues and advance the study outlined by Senator GORTON?

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, it would seem prudent and responsible for the Corps to use available funds during fiscal year 1999 to address this important issue.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator GORTON, I thank the chairman.●